Statement of Purpose:  
The Inclusive Economies Working Group

Inclusive Economies (formerly the Restoring Prosperity in Older Industrial Cities Working Group) brings place-based funders and related partners together to build working relationships, advance understanding of practices and policies that lead to inclusive prosperity, and take joint action on issues of common interest.

One of the Funders’ Network for Smart Growth and Livable Communities’ working groups, Inclusive Economies applies a three-part focus on race, place and prosperity to economic growth and development. A particular goal is connecting people and neighborhoods of color to employment and wealth-building opportunities through investment, systems change, and policy reform.

This framework is informed by a decade of experience with government and philanthropic initiatives that have not substantially improved the economic position of people and neighborhoods of color. Reinforced by deeper understanding of the dynamics and effects of economic restructuring, income inequality, and systemic racism in both public and private policies and practices, the Inclusive Economies framework shifts emphasis from enhancing the economic competitiveness of places to fostering the conditions for broadly inclusive economic growth and opportunity that advance equitable economic and social outcomes.

Inclusive Economies' focus on race, place, and prosperity reflects a number of related premises:

- Inclusive Economies represents a vision of shared, restorative, and equitable prosperity in places of all types (urban, suburban, and rural), sizes (neighborhoods, cities, towns, and regions), and market conditions (weak, moderate, and strong).

- We prioritize racial equity in recognition of the far-reaching role of race in determining economic and social outcomes, and the inequitable advantages conferred by privilege and power.

- Inclusive Economies’ strategies integrate the economic, physical, cultural, and social dimensions of place.

- Our work advances systemic change as a matter of racial and economic justice, and affirms intersectional approaches to supporting economic growth and resilience.

- We seek geographically targeted and locally determined strategies that build power, wealth and justice by connecting historically marginalized people and places to investment that generates income and wealth.

- We strive to challenge and confront the power dynamics and structural racism that have historically fostered inequities and informed policies and practices, and create communities and regions that are sustainable, prosperous and just.